



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

Raised Bill No. 7214

LCO No. 4609



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING HARASSMENT OF A GUIDE OR ASSISTANCE
DOG OR THE HANDLER OF SUCH DOG.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 46a-44 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

3 (a) Any blind, deaf or mobility impaired person or any person
4 training a dog as a guide dog for a blind person or [a] an assistance
5 dog to assist a deaf or mobility impaired person may travel on a train
6 or on any other mode of public transportation, and may enter any
7 other place of public accommodation which caters or offers its services
8 or facilities or goods to the general public, including but not limited to,
9 any public building, inn, restaurant, hotel, motel, tourist cabin, place of
10 amusement, resort or any facility of any such public accommodation,
11 accompanied by [his] such person's guide dog or assistance dog, and
12 [he] such person may keep such dog with him or her at all times in any
13 such public accommodation or facility thereof at no extra charge,
14 provided such dog shall be in the direct custody of such person and
15 shall be wearing a harness or an orange-colored leash and collar.

16 (b) Any blind, deaf or mobility impaired person or any person
17 training a dog as a guide dog for a blind person or [a] an assistance
18 dog to assist a deaf or mobility impaired person shall be entitled to
19 visit any place of public accommodation, resort or amusement or a
20 dwelling as a guest of a lawful occupant thereof, accompanied by [his]
21 such person's guide dog or assistance dog, and [he] such person may
22 keep such dog with him or her at all times in such public
23 accommodation, resort, amusement or dwelling at no extra charge,
24 provided such dog shall be in the direct custody of such person and
25 shall be wearing a harness or an orange-colored leash and collar. No
26 such blind, deaf or mobility impaired person or person training a dog
27 as a guide dog [for a blind person or a dog to assist a deaf or mobility
28 impaired person] or an assistance dog shall be charged any fee not
29 applicable alike to all guests, provided the owner of such dog shall be
30 liable for any damage done to the premises or facilities by such dog.
31 For the purposes of this subsection, (1) a "place of public
32 accommodation, resort or amusement" means any establishment
33 which caters or offers its services or facilities or goods to the general
34 public, including, but not limited to, any commercial building lot, on
35 which it is intended that a commercial property or building will be
36 constructed or offered for sale or rent, and (2) "dwelling" means any
37 building, structure, mobile manufactured home park or portion thereof
38 which is occupied as, or designed or intended for occupancy as, a
39 residence by one or more families, and any vacant land which is
40 offered for sale or lease for the construction or location thereon of any
41 such building, structure, mobile manufactured home park or portion
42 thereof, provided the provisions of this subsection shall not apply to
43 (A) the rental of a room or rooms in a single-family dwelling unit, if
44 the owner actually maintains and occupies part of such living quarters
45 as [his] the owner's residence or (B) a unit in a dwelling containing
46 living quarters occupied or intended to be occupied by no more than
47 two families living independently of each other, if the owner actually
48 maintains and occupies the other such living quarters as [his] the
49 owner's residence.

50 (c) Any person who interferes with a blind, deaf or mobility
 51 impaired person's use of a guide dog or an assistance dog, including,
 52 but not limited to, any action intended to harass or annoy the blind,
 53 deaf or mobility impaired person, the person training a dog as a guide
 54 dog or assistance dog or the guide dog or assistance dog, or who
 55 denies the rights afforded to a blind, deaf or mobility impaired
 56 [persons or persons] person or person training a dog as a guide dog
 57 [for a blind person or a] or an assistance dog [to assist a deaf or
 58 mobility impaired person] under [subsections (a) and] subsection (a) or
 59 (b) of this section shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor, provided
 60 such blind, deaf or mobility impaired person or person training a dog
 61 as a guide dog [for a blind person or a dog to assist a deaf or mobility
 62 impaired person] or an assistance dog complies with the applicable
 63 provisions of subsection (a) or (b) of this section.

64 (d) For the purposes of this section, "guide dog" or "assistance dog"
 65 includes a dog being trained as a guide dog or assistance dog and
 66 "person training a dog as a guide dog for a blind person or [a] an
 67 assistance dog to assist a deaf or mobility impaired person" means a
 68 person who is employed by and authorized to engage in designated
 69 training activities by a guide dog organization or assistance dog
 70 organization that complies with the criteria for membership in a
 71 professional association of guide dog or assistance dog schools and
 72 who carries photographic identification indicating such employment
 73 and authorization, or a person who volunteers for a guide dog
 74 organization or assistance dog organization that authorizes such
 75 volunteers to raise dogs to become guide dogs or assistance dogs and
 76 causes the identification of such dog with (1) identification tags, (2) ear
 77 tattoos, (3) identifying bandanas on puppies, (4) identifying coats on
 78 adult dogs, or (5) leashes and collars.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	October 1, 2017	46a-44
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Statement of Purpose:

To establish a crime for interference with a guide dog or assistance dog or such dog's handler.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]